ARCH CREEK
Memorial Park
WHERE NATURE
AND
HISTORY MEET

March 15, 1991

Dear Heritage Trust members,

I am enclosing a copy of a recent newspaper article. The members of Arch Creek Trust are very concerned. A second right turn lane is not needed. We are shocked that taking a part of the park is even being considered. If you can support us in any way, we would appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Carol Helene,
President of
Arch Creek Trust

Park fights street invasion

Keystone Point residents want two left-turn lanes in each direction when Biscayne Boulevard is widened, a change that would cut 10 feet into Arch Creek Park. The park trust vows to fight, **3.**

Homeowners want more turning lanes

By HAROLD MAASS
Herald Staff Writer

Keystone Point homeowners and North Miami politicians may collide with environmentalists over a new push to widen Biscayne Boulevard over the edge of Arch Creek Park.

The state Department of Transportation plans to widen the road to six traffic lanes with a median, sidewalk and landscaping. Construction for the segment from 135th Street to 151st Street is not scheduled to begin until 1993.

But current plans call for just one left-turn lane in each direction at 135th Street. Members of the homeowners association want a second set of turning lanes, an addition the Arch Creek Trust has vowed to fight because it would cut 10 to 11 feet into park property. The park includes a Tequesta Indian burial ground and old oak trees.

The Keystone Point Homeowners Association voted last week to ask the City Council for help. The council Tuesday backed it up, voting unanimously to direct the city manager to ask the county for a hand in getting the land needed for the extra lanes.

"We should be doing something before there is a gridlock," said Shelly Gassner, a council member.

A leader of the Arch Creek Trust, a group dedicated to restoring the park's hardwood hammock, said that the extra turning lane is not needed.

The extra lane would push the road over about 10 feet of park property outside the park's fence and another foot or two into the eight-acre park, which is owned by the state but operated by the county.

"We are going to oppose any widening there that goes beyond the fence," said Elmore Kerkela, vice president of the Arch Creek Trust.

An Indian mound north of the intersection of Biscayne Boulevard stretched from the park land across what is now Biscayne Boulevard to an area now occupied by a motel.

"Anything they do will cut further into that Indian mound," Kerkela said. "They don't need any more."

Daniel Iglesias, senior project manager for DOT, said the extra lane was not deemed essential to the project based on past traffic studies. But he said it could be added even though the construction plans for the road are almost complete.

"Changes like this could come on at a later date if it is something that the public and later studies say are needed," Iglesias said.